PAYMENT OF WATER RATES AND BETTERMENT CONTRIBUTION IN KHANAPUR TALUK.

539. SRI SIRDESAI (KHANAPUR):—

Will the Minister for Revenue be pleased to State:

(*a*) the number of owners and clutivators of lands in Khanapur Taluk who have been given notices by the Tahsildar, Khanapur and by the Betterment Levy Officer- cum Assistant Commissioner, B. D. Belgaum asking them to credit water rate and betterment contribution.

(*b*) the number of owners and cultivators who have gone to appeal to the Assistant Commissioner as provided under the existing rules;

(*c*) the number of appeal applications that have been heard and upheld or set aside;

(*d*) the contentions put forth by the appellants in their appeal applications and whether Government have considered their contentions?

SRI H. V. KOUJALGI.—Minister for Revenue

(*a*) (i) 2,457 persons have been served notices by the Tahasildar for payment of water rate:and

(ii) 99 persons have been served notices by the Assistant Commissioner and Betterment Levy Officer, Belgaum for payment of betterment contribution.

(*b*) 785 persons.

(*c*) Out of 785 appeal cases, 496 have been disposed of Out of 496 cases, 140 orders of the lower offices were upheld, 140 were set aside and 216 were partially set aside and partially upheld.

(*d*) The appellants contended that the Tahasildar had not made enquiries regarding actul availability of water that he had relied on the statements furnished by P. W.D that the demand Revenue and P. W. D authorities with- out verification was illegal and tha water rate was levied for the full season though the water was supplied for Part of the season. All these contentions were considered by the appellate authority before passing orders on the appeals.